

2015-J6431

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lawrence Gabriel upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the caring concern and heroic acts of those exemplary citizens, who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, and in doing so, help others to avert life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lawrence Gabriel upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Gabriel proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army in Iraq; a current Syracuse-area resident, he was working as a bouncer at McAvan's Pub on Syracuse, New York's Tipperary Hill on February 1, 2015, when a man armed with a gun came into the establishment and started firing at the crowd; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Gabriel, along with his cousin, immediately tackled the gunman and dragged him outside, away from the facility to ensure the safety of the patrons inside; due to his quick and heroic actions, numerous lives were saved; and

WHEREAS, During the struggle, Lawrence Gabriel was shot four times,

including two shots to his abdomen; even though he was transported to the hospital in critical condition, Lawrence recovered after months of operations and intense rehabilitation; unfortunately, six people inside the pub were also shot; and

WHEREAS, According to the Onondaga County District Attorney's office, the rampage was recorded as the largest mass shooting in Syracuse's history; the gunman was apprehended soon after the shooting and has since been sentenced to 45 years to life in prison; and

WHEREAS, Today, Lawrence Gabriel is continuing to recover from his injuries and reclaiming his life; he has been working out at Ray Rineldi's West Side Gym, pursuing his lifelong dream of professional boxing; on February 27, 2016, he took to the boxing ring at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York, and competed amidst the cheers of hundreds of supporters; and

WHEREAS, On December 7, 2015, Lawrence Gabriel was named a Red Cross of Central New York Military Real Hero for his brave actions, both in military and civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Gabriel has demonstrated his strong character and compassion for the welfare of others in his community, and across the State of New York, and this outstanding individual deserves to be commended; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Gabriel, through his spontaneous and heroic actions, demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of the State of New York who voluntarily respond when others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lawrence Gabriel upon the occasion of his designation as a 2016

recipient of the Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Lawrence Gabriel.